

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING,

In response to Senate resolution of January 20, papers relating to the employment of convict labor in the construction of a public building at Peoria, Ill.

FEBRUARY 2, 1886.—Referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and ordered to be printed; accompanying papers referred to the Committee on Printing.

FEBRUARY 11, 1886.—Accompanying papers ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
February 2, 1886.

SIR: In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of January 20, 1886, in the following terms—

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to forward to the Senate all papers in relation to the contract let to Brainard & Co., or to other parties, for the work, or any part of the same, of putting an additional story on the Peoria, Ill., post-office in 1885; also all protests filed by labor leagues in relation thereto; also a copy of the protest filed by Messrs. Straub & Co., of Buffalo, N. Y., giving information that the work on said contract would be performed by convict labor, and consequently contractors who employed free labor could not afford to bid for the work—

I transmit herewith the, said papers, twenty-one in number, consisting of specifications, bids, telegrams, and letters, all of which are more specifically described in the schedule inclosed herewith.

When the question of letting this contract was before me I was advised and obliged to hold that under the present statutes of the United States I was not empowered to direct or dictate what means the lowest bidder for a contract duly advertised in accordance with law should employ to fulfill the terms of the contract, provided said means be lawful.

I found that a statute of the State of Illinois authorized the employment by the contractors in question of convict labor. I could not find that any statute of the United States authorized the rejection of bids made by men who employed such labor, consequently in obedience to what I deemed my duty under existing statutes I directed that the contract be let to the lowest responsible bidder.

Respectfully yours,

DANIEL MANNING,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,
Washington, D. C.

2 EMPLOYMENT OF CONVICT LABOR ON PUBLIC BUILDING.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT,
February 2, 1886.

Schedule of papers to accompany communication of the Secretary of the Treasury of February 2, 1886, in answer to resolution of the Senate of the United States regarding the employment of convict labor in connection with the work of construction of the public building at Peoria, Ill.

No.	Date.	Names.	Subject.
1	1885. July 8	Proposals received	Synopsis and bids (five) for stone and brick work of additional story for the public building at Peoria, Ill.
2	July 6	Supervising Architect	Submits bids to the Secretary of the Treasury for instructions, in view of contemplated employment of convict labor by the lowest bidder.
TELEGRAMS.			
3	July 7	Peter G. Straub	Has award been made of Peoria work?
4	July 1	H. H. Forsyth	Lowest bidder employs convict labor.
5	July 4	Judge L. W. James	Objects to letting Peoria contract to parties employing convict labor.
6	July 4	Hon. N. E. Worthington	Protests against employing prison labor on public buildings.
7	July 2	.....do	Objects to awarding contract to employers of convict labor at Peoria.
LETTERS.			
8	.....	P. G. Straub	Refers to his bid for stone work, Peoria building; impossible for honest labor to compete with prison labor.
9	July 1	.....do	Protests against award of contract to employers of convict labor.
10	July 1	Charles Ballance	Against letting contract for stone-cutting, Peoria, to convict labor.
11	July 2	District Assembly No. 94, K. of L., Philadelphia.	Against employment of convict labor on Peoria building.
12	July 7	E. R. Brainerd & Co.	In reference to employment of convict labor under their contract for stone work, Peoria building.
13	July 9	Stone-Cutters' Union of Albany, N. Y.	Protests against employment of convict labor by Government contractors.
14	July 14	Central Labor Union of Philadelphia, Pa.	Against awarding the contract, Peoria, to convict labor.
15	July 16	Albany Workingmen's Assembly.	Protests against employment of convict labor at Peoria.
16	July 21	District Assembly No. 84, K. of L., Richmond, Va.	Protests against convict labor on public building at Peoria, Ill.
17	Aug. 14	Granite-Cutters' Union of Philadelphia, Pa.	Refers to injustice of decision, convict labor on Peoria building.
18	Aug. 29	Workingmen's Committee, of Quincy, Mass.	Protests against Department action in awarding work to convict labor contractor.
19	.....	Resolution laboring class of Peoria.	Protests in name laboring class of Peoria, Ill., against award to employer of convict labor.
20	July 8	Supervising Architect	To Peter G. Straub in reply to telegram: contract for Peoria building awarded to Brainerd & Co.
21	June 2	.....do	Specification for stone work on public building at Peoria, Ill.

No. 1.

POST-OFFICE, COURT-HOUSE, &C., PEORIA, ILL.

Synopsis of bids for stone work and setting and for brick work (additional story) received under advertisement dated June 2, 1885.

STONE WORK.

No.	Bidders.	Amount.	Time.	Kind of stone.
1	E. R. Brainerd & Co	\$11,485	Four months	Buff amherst.
2	P. G. Straub & Co	12,990	.....do	Do.
3	Ballance & Jaus	13,700	Four and a half months	Do.

Synopsis of bids for brick work, &c.—Continued.

BRICK WORK.

No.	Bidders.	Amount.	Time.
1	A. J. White	\$4,520	Twenty days after stone is finished.
2	F. B. Hasbrouck	4,775	Fifteen days.
3	E. R. Brainerd & Co	*15,425	

* This includes the stone work.

OFFICE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT, TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Opened this 30th day of June, 1885, at 2 o'clock p. m., by—

H. G. JACOBS,
Acting Supervising Architect.

In presence of—

JAMES P. LOW,
Civil Engineer.
HERBERT VAIL,
Chief Computer.

[Indorsement.]

OFFICE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT, TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
July 8, 1885.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury, with the recommendation that the proposal of E. R. Brainerd, in amount \$15,425, for stone and brick work, the lowest received, be accepted.

M. E. BELL,
Supervising Architect.

Approved July 8, 1885.

D. MANNING,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Accepted July 11, 1885.

B.

Proposal for stone work and setting for the additional story of the post-office, court-house, &c., at Peoria, Ill.

CHICAGO, June 26, 1885.

Mr. M. E. BELL,
Supervising Architect:

SIR: We propose to furnish and set all the stone work required for the additional story, &c., in accordance with the drawings, specification, and samples herewith submitted, for the sum of \$11,485.

Time to complete: Four months.

Kind of stone: Buff Amherst, same as used in first and second story.

Location of quarry: Ohio.

Or will furnish, complete, the brick work, including stone work as above, for \$15,425.

E. R. BRAINERD & CO.,
*Chicago, Ill.*Members of firm—
E. R. BRAINERD.
F. W. SMITH.

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Proposal for stone work and setting for the additional story of the post-office, court-house, &c., at Peoria, Ill.

— — — — —, 1885.

Mr. M. E. BELL,

Supervising Architect:

SIR: We propose to furnish and set all the stone work required for the additional story, &c., in accordance with the drawings, specification, and samples herewith submitted, for the sum of \$12,990.

Time to complete: Four months.

Kind of stone: Ohio buff stone.

Location of quarry: Clough's quarries, Amherst, Ohio.

PETER G. STRAUB & CO.,

918-930 Main St., Buffalo, N. Y.

Members of firm—

PETER G. STRAUB.

WM. H. SCHMIDT.

Reference to sample on file.

Proposal for stone work and setting for the additional story of the post-office, court-house, &c., at Peoria, Ill.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 30, 1885.

Mr. M. E. BELL,

Supervising Architect:

SIR: We propose to furnish and set all the stone work required for the additional story, &c., in accordance with the drawings, specification, and samples herewith submitted for the sum of \$13,700.

Time to complete: Four and one-half months.

Kind of stone: Buff Amherst sandstone.

Location of quarry: Amherst

I refer by permission to the sample furnished by Mr. Straub.

BALLANCE & JAUS.

Members of firm—

CHARLES BALLANCE.

CHARLES JAUS.

Proposal for brick work for the additional story of post-office, court-house, &c., at Peoria, Ill.

Mr. M. E. BELL,

Supervising Architect:

June 26, 1885.

SIR: I propose to furnish all the labor and material and build, complete, the brick masonry of additional story, &c., in accordance with drawings, specifications, and samples herewith submitted, for the sum of \$4,520.

Time to complete: Twenty days after stone is furnished.

A. J. WHITE,

Peoria, Ill.

Will furnish the same kind of material as samples already in your office for former contract and same as is now in the building.

A. J. WHITE.

No. 1.

Proposal for brick-work for the additional story of post-office, court-house, &c., at Peoria, Ill

PEORIA, ILL., June 27, 1885.

Mr. M. E. BELL,

Supervising Architect:

SIR: I propose to furnish all the labor and material, and build complete the brick masonry of additional story, &c., in accordance with drawings, specifications, and samples herewith submitted, for the sum of \$4,775.

Time to complete: Fifteen days after stone-work is completed.

F. B. HASBROUCK,

323 Ellis St., Peoria, Ill.

I have not time to send samples, but will furnish material the same as has been used in the building heretofore.

F. B. HASBROUCK.

No. 2.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT,
Washington, July 6, 1885.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith the synopsis of bids received under advertisement for the stone and brick required to construct an additional story on the court-house and post-office building at Peoria, Ill. Messrs. E. R. Brainerd & Co. are the lowest bidders. Messrs. P. G. Straub & Co., who built the stone-work of the other stories of the building, and Ballance & Jaus, protest against the award of the contract to Brainerd & Co. on the ground that they are employers of convict labor. Protests have also been received from the Hon. N. E. Worthington, M. C.; S. W. James, judge of county court; J. M. Niehaus; H. H. Forsyth, clerk of the city of Peoria; J. C. Dolan, member of the city council, and District Assembly No. 94, Knights of Labor, Philadelphia. The lowest bidders also present in writing their side of the case. All the papers are herewith submitted for instructions.

Very respectfully,

M. E. BELL,
Supervising Architect.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Indorsement.]

Award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

D. MANNING,
Secretary.

No. 3.

BUFFALO, N. Y., *July 7, 188-*

H. G. JACOBS,
Washington:

Has award been made Peoria contract? If not, when? Answer.

PETER G. STRAUB.

No. 4.

PEORIA, ILL., *July 1, 1885.*

HON. DANIEL MANNING,
Secretary United States Treasury, Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR: We are informed that the lowest bidder on our public building is one who employs convict labor, and we wish very respectfully to call your attention to the great antipathy in the minds of the American people to putting honest labor in competition with convicts.

Very truly, yours,

HENRY H. FORSYTH,
Clerk of the City of Peoria, Ill.
J. C. DOLAN,
Member Finance Committee, Peoria City Council.

No. 5.

PEORIA, ILL., *July 4, 1885.*

MR. FAIRCHILD,
Assistant Secretary Treasury, Washington, D. C.:

Citizens are very much opposed to letting contract here to parties employing convict labor.

L. W. JAMES,
Judge County Court.
J. M. NIEHAUS,
State's Attorney.

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No. 6.

PEORIA, ILL., July 4, 1885.

Hon. D. MANNING,
Secretary Treasury, Washington, D. C. :

Strong feeling here and in this State against employing prison labor in public buildings. The letting of contract for completing building here to any firm using this kind of labor because its bid was the lowest would be regarded as unfair and unjust to other firms using free labor.

N. E. WORTHINGTON.

No. 7.

PEORIA, ILL., July 2, 1885.

M. E. BELL,
Supervising Architect, Washington, D. C. :

Understanding here is that convict labor will be employed by party making lowest bid. All work heretofore has been done in city by honest mechanics, and I trust that contract will not be let without clause prohibiting use convict labor.

N. E. WORTHINGTON, M. C.

No. 8.

OFFICE OF PETER G. STRAUB,
Buffalo, N. Y.

I hand you herewith a letter of introduction from your brother, John B. Manning. I have been the contractor for the stone-work for the Government buildings at Peoria, Ill. I put up the basement and two stories already erected at a loss of \$5,000. I have just put in a bid for the third story, and I find a bid in by E. R. Brainerd for \$1,500 less. He employs the Illinois prison labor. It is impossible for honest labor to compete with convicts. Is it the policy of this Administration to employ convict labor on public work? If you will see Mr. Bell before this work is let you will confer a favor on

Your obedient servant,

PETER G. STRAUB.

Hon. DANIEL MANNING,
Secretary of the Treasury.

[Indorsement.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
July 6, 1885.

Respectfully referred to the Supervising Architect.

E. HIGGINS,
Chief Appointment Division.

No. 9.

OFFICE OF PETER G. STRAUB,
Buffalo, N. Y., July 1, 1885.

DEAR SIR: I tried to obtain an interview with you this morning for the purpose of protesting against letting the contract for the stone cutting and setting of the work on the third story of the Government building at Peoria, Ill. I did the work on the first two stories to the satisfaction of the Department and at a loss to myself. The bids for the third story have just been opened. I find I was the lowest bidder, except E. R. Brainerd & Co., of Illinois State prison. These men employ only convict labor, which they hire from the State, paying, as I am informed, only 64 cents per day. I have to pay my free labor for stone-cutting \$3.50 per day. If you accept their proposition it is useless for any persons to try and compete who employ free labor. I was perfectly willing to compete for the work on this third story with any reliable contractor who uses free labor, but I certainly would not have bid if I had thought the Department would entertain a bid from any prison contractors. Hoping you can see the way clear to award me this work,

I am yours, with respect,

PETER G. STRAUB.

Hon. DANIEL MANNING,
Secretary of the Treasury:

No. 10.

OFFICE OF CHARLES BALLANCE,
Peoria, Ill., July 1, 1885.

DEAR SIR: I most earnestly protest against the letting of the cut stone and masonry work of the third story of the Government building at Peoria, Ill., to Messrs. E. R. Brainerd & Co. Messrs. Brainerd & Co., are the contractors of the Illinois State prison and employ only convict labor. It will cause a great deal of dissatisfaction in our State if the Department should recognize convict competition as against free labor. We elected a Democratic Congressman in our district (N. E. Worthington) because he advocated the abolishment of convict labor on public work. While I was a competitor of P. G. Straub & Co., of Buffalo, N. Y., for this work, I am perfectly satisfied if they are awarded the contract. If they are awarded the contract they will employ our Peoria stone-cutters, who are now nearly idle, as work is quite dull in the West. If it becomes a recognized fact that prison contractors are to be recognized, persons employing free labor will have to stop work. This small contract will employ fifty stone-cutters and laborers two months, and they will thus be able to stay in Peoria and support their families. If it goes to the prison contractors they will have to move. Illinois has just passed a law against hiring out any more convict labor after their contract with Brainerd & Co. expires. Hoping you will decide not to award Brainerd & Co. the contract,

I am, very respectfully, yours,

CHARLES BALLANCE.

HON. DANIEL MANNING,
Secretary of the Treasury.

No. 11.

No. 352 NORTH SECOND STREET,
Philadelphia, July 2, 1885.

DEAR SIR: At a regular meeting of District Assembly No. 94, Knights of Labor, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, in the awarding of the contract for the additional story on the post-office at Peoria, Ill., contains a question of vital importance to the entire laboring class of the United States: Therefore be it

Resolved, That District Assembly No. 94, composed of leather workers of Philadelphia, Pa., do protest against Brainerd & Co., employers of convict labor, receiving the above contract.

[SEAL.]

MICHAEL GALLAGHER,
*Recording Secretary, D. A. No. 94.*HON. DANIEL MANNING,
Secretary of the Treasury.

No. 12.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 7, 1885.

SIR: In reference to the question raised of awarding us the contract for the cut-stone and brick work for the custom-house and post-office at Peoria, Ill., we understand the reason to be that we employ convict labor. This we admit; but claim in no case should this debar us from bidding on Government work, for the following reasons: We employ about *three hundred* civilians in our different shops and quarries, and only *sixty* convict stone-cutters. Those sixty men will do the work of thirty civilians.

The brick-work on the Peoria building will be done entirely by civilians; the stone-work largely by the same, so that we cannot be considered as convict-labor contractors, only to a very small per cent. in comparison to our whole work. Should a decision be made against us, it will seriously damage our entire business, thereby throwing out of work a great many more civilians than convicts—that we work.

This would be especially distressing, and unnecessary, as we are the only firm that use convict labor cutting stone in the United States. And the labor, practically, of only thirty men certainly cannot injure the large number of civilians in this country engaged in this business. Your adverse decision will not affect a single firm in this

country but ours, and the percentage of work this small number of convicts can do is so small that it cannot be calculated. Had we supposed at this late day that this question of a few convicts cutting stone which would enter into Government buildings could have been used by our competitors with any effect against us, when we are the lowest bidders, we should most certainly have refrained from estimating upon work in the office of the Supervising Architect. But the question having already been considered by Secretary Sherman, who decided that the Government could not dictate the means by which a contractor should comply with the plans and specifications, we have continued to furnish proposals in accordance with Department advertisements.

We have bid on work in the Supervising Architect's office for the past five years, and the Government building at Terre Haute, Ind., and those now in question are the only contracts out of all we have bid on that we are the lowest. In this case we claim that all who are objecting to the work being awarded us, are directly or indirectly interested in the parties whose bids are next lowest to us.

Having confidence that you will treat us fairly, and that you will instruct the Supervising Architect to award the contracts in question to the lowest bidders, we hope for an early decision in our favor.

Very respectfully, yours,

E. R. BRAINERD & CO.,
Chicago, Ill.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

No. 13.

ALBANY, July 9, 1885.

DEAR SIR: At a meeting of the Albany, N. Y., Branch of the Stone-cutters' National Union, held at their rooms in this city on the evening of July 8, 1885, the following report, taken from the daily papers, was read:

"*Contract decision.*—The Secretary of the Treasury has decided a case involving an important labor question. Bids were recently opened for stone-work on the post-office at Peoria. Messrs. Brainerd & Co., of Joliet, were the lowest bidders. A protest against their being awarded the contract was, however, filed by Messrs. Straub & Co., of Buffalo, the next lowest bidders, on the ground that Brainerd & Co. were contractors for the labor of the Illinois State prison, and would employ convict labor on the post-office. The matter was referred to Solicitor McCue, who gave an opinion that the Department should not be expected to dictate the means by which contractors perform their work, and that he did not believe the protest a valid one. Secretary Manning has sustained the Solicitor, and the contract will be awarded to Brainerd & Co."

As citizens of the United States who believe in upholding the Government in all just acts, and protesting against any injustice done to any citizens by officials of the Government contrary to the will of the people, who are the government, we therefore enter a solemn protest against such action as this on the part of the representatives of the people, believing that the Government should be so conducted as to do "the greatest good to the greatest number," and this action is against the interest of every citizen of this country.

The convict contract labor system as carried on in the different States prisons and penal institutions of the country is a disgrace to civilization and one of the things that is gradually sapping the life-blood out of the honest labor of the country, and the only good accomplished, if good it can be called, is the "enriching of unscrupulous contractors and shameless jobbers."

The voice of the people of this great State has been heard on this subject, and by an overwhelming majority of the votes of its citizens have driven this accursed system from the State. Other States—Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, &c.—have also abolished this system. The sentiment of the people of the United States is against any system of labor that tends in any way to cripple the workmen of this country, and the officials of the Government should be the last to even make an attempt to countenance any such system, for the voice of the people should be a higher authority than any Treasury Solicitor on questions of such vast importance as this.

The Democratic party in its platform adopted last year at Chicago "professed a desire to have an opportunity to elevate labor." The chance has been given them by the votes of the people, and this is the result: Before six months have elapsed, "subjecting American labor to the competition of convict contract labor." The platform was filled with good promises to labor, and labor is anxiously waiting to see some of these promises fulfilled; but this is not one of the ways to do it.

"Asserting the equality of all men before the law, we hold it is the duty of the

Government in its dealings with the people to mete out equal and exact justice to all citizens," and "believing labor is best rewarded where it is freest and most enlightened, it should therefore be fostered and cherished"; but placing the labor of convicts in unjust competition with free labor, is not the proper way to "mete out equal and exact justice," nor "foster and cherish it."

This protest is not made in the interest of any contractor. We only ask that free labor may be employed on the public works of the Government.

Having thus called your attention to this unjust act, and believing that you, as an official placed in power by the votes of the people, and interested in their welfare, will take speedy action to undo this great wrong, and see that justice is done to the free and honest labor of these United States; in whose behalf we send this protest, and respectfully request an early answer. We are most

Respectfully yours,

DANIEL CLANCY,
GEORGE DIFFIN,
MICHAEL NOLAN,

Committee on behalf of the Albany Branch of the Stone-cutter's Union.

JOHN LITTLE,
President.

M. NOLAN,
Secretary.

Hon. DANIEL MANNING,
Secretary of the Treasury.

P. S.—Please notice all quotations are from the last National Democratic platform.

No. 14.

819 FALLON STREET, PHILADELPHIA, July 14, 1885.

DEAR SIR: The Central Labor Union of Philadelphia has directed me to address you in protest, on behalf of the free labor of this vicinity, against the award of the stone work of the Peoria (Ill.) post-office to Brainerd & Co., the convict-labor contractors of Joliet. It is a serious matter when the United States Government becomes a party to the vicious methods of corporate monopoly, using the cheap labor of the unfortunate criminal as a club to beat down the standard of subsistence of industrious, law-abiding mechanics. We pray you, therefore, to revoke the said contract, and not allow such a stain to attach to the present administration.

Yours, respectfully,

W. H. FOSTER,
Corresponding Secretary Central Labor Union.

Hon. D. MANNING,
Secretary of the Treasury.

No. 15.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ALBANY WORKINGMEN'S ASSEMBLY,
Albany, N. Y., July 16, 1885.

DEAR SIR: At a late meeting of this assembly, which is a body composed of delegates from each of the labor organizations of this city, and the aim of which is to promote all branches of honest industry, it was unanimously voted to enter an earnest protest against the action of the Treasury Department in awarding the contract for stone work on the Peoria post-office to a firm which intends to employ convict labor thereon, and also to respectfully but earnestly ask that said contract be annulled.

Most respectfully, yours,

THOMAS PALMATIER,
President.
F. W. CROAKE,
Secretary.

Hon. DANIEL MANNING,
Secretary United States Treasury.

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No. 16.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT ASSEMBLY No. 84,
Richmond, Va., July 21, 1885.

DEAR SIR: At the last regular meeting of District Assembly 84 the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted and a copy ordered to be forwarded to your excellency:

"Whereas in the face of a protest against the employment of convict labor on the improvement of the post-office at Peoria, Ill., Secretary Manning has recently decided that the Government has nothing to do with dictating the kind of labor to be employed in carrying out its contracts:

"Be it resolved by District Assembly 84, K. of L., (1) That said decision is a direct encouragement of convict labor in competition with honest labor, and is therefore hurtful to the vital interests of the working people of the United States.

"(2) That in rendering a decision so adverse to the interest of honest labor Secretary Manning has forfeited his claims on the confidence of the working classes as a high official, and that he deserves the censure of the working people throughout the country.

"(3) That a copy of these resolutions be sent to President Cleveland and to Secretary Manning.

"(4) That the labor papers throughout the country be requested to publish these resolutions."

[SEAL.]

W. H. MULLEN,
D. M. W.
CHARLES DEVOTO,
D. R. S.

Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND.

No. 17.

Office of the Granite Cutters' National Union, 1907 Market street, Philadelphia, Pa. Organized
March 10, 1877.

PHILADELPHIA, August 14, 1885.

SIR: I am instructed by the executive committee of the Granite Cutters' National Union to call your attention to the injustice of your recent decision in the case of the Peoria post-office building, and to protest against Government work being given to convict contractors. This is a serious question, and it is hoped that you will recall your decision and give the work to honest contractors who employ honest labor. The decision has created a vast amount of ill feeling, and, when you consider the small amount between the two lowest bids, you certainly would be justified in exercising the right always reserved of rejecting any and all bids.

The question of convict contract labor I need not enter into, but knowing your reputation as a fairman, and as you are an honorary member of the Albany Typographical Union, I hope you will endeavor to right the wrong to honest labor which your decision certainly is. We are always ready to acknowledge fair treatment, and give to Secretary Whitney all praise due him for his action on the eight-hour law, but on behalf of our fellows stone-cutters we emphatically protest against your action on convict contractor.

Yours, truly,

[SEAL.]

JOSIAH B. DYER,
N. U. Secretary.

Secretary MANNING.

No. 18.

QUINCY, MASS., August 29, 1885.

SIR: As citizens of the United States, we unreservedly and emphatically protest against the unprecedented and impolitic procedure of the Treasury Department, which, with your knowledge and acquiescence, have, in violation of common usage and contrary to the interest of free labor, let the contract of a Government building in Peoria, Ill., to a convict-labor contractor in preference to free-labor contractors, whose bids for doing the work were commensurate to the price generally paid free labor.

Is this the manner in which free labor shall be victimized, impoverished, and degraded by a political party whose promises to the proletarian cohorts of the nation on the eve of election were loud and assuring? Shall convict-labor contractors fatten under Government patronage whilst honest labor pines in compulsory idleness? Shall children go naked and hungry and their natural guardians become vagabond tramps

in search of employment that convict labor may be utilized to enrich contractors high in favor with the present administration? Our manhood says, No. To submit would be cowardice. For no administration or political party shall degrade and impoverish free labor in the name of political economy without encountering the indignant disapproval of American free men.

We not only ask but demand of the Secretary of the Treasury, in the name of our birth-right, in the name of our citizenship, the revocation of the contract aforementioned, and notwithstanding the forensic astuteness of the Solicitor of the Treasury, whose decision in favor of the aforementioned contract he bases not on law but on the omission of the law. We, nevertheless, adhere to the sovereign decision of the people, to wit: The greatest good to the greatest number of the people. From which decision there is no appeal. If the motto of the Democratic party in its civil-service crusade is to confront free labor with convict labor, why not begin where the experiment would work the least mischief to society in general?

For instance, Mr. Secretary, if you consult the criminal records of the nation, you will find as many accountants and professionals in comparison to their whole number, as you will of the proletarian wing of society, who have become victims of crime and the inmates of the prison inclosures of the nation. To set those convict accountants and professionals to cutting stone, laying brick, or forging ship anchors would be a wasting of time in an unprofitable manner; but from their ranks, at a salary based on 60 cents a day, the present price paid for convict labor, may be selected an accountant and financier as brilliant and capable as the present incumbent of the Treasury, who would perform the duties of the office equally as well and at a great reduction in the burden of salary that weighs so heavily on the people; and from the same ranks, and at the same salary, can be selected a lump of forensic astuteness as profound and highly garnished in a knowledge of Blackstone as the present incumbent of the solicitorship of the Treasury Department.

To reduce large salaries to a minimum is both economic and democratic in its bearing and a project worthy of a Government pledged to civil-service reform.

But why should the servants of the people become principals in a project calculated to reduce the wages of the toiling masses and consign them to enforced idleness, while they whisper not a little of desire to have their salaries reduced in a proportionate ratio.

Consistency, thou art a jewel; but, alas! thou art robbed of thy sparkling brilliancy in these days of pharisaical civil-service reform. Shall the State of Illinois with her granting of rum license to inoculate her people with crime and misery be encouraged by the General Government to persist in her ungodly course by giving to her convict labor contractors the erection of Government buildings to the detriment of free labor? In the name of sober humanity we offer our protest, and ask the Democratic party to retrace its steps to the path of rectitude lest the battle cry of, "Turn the rascals out," made use of by Democratic speakers at the last general election find echo in an indignant people over the discomfiture of the present administration.

GEO. O. SHIRLEY,	MICHAEL MEARY,
DENNIS MCCARTHY,	ARTHUR AUSTIN,
JOHN FLYN,	HARVEY NICOLL,
WILLIAM KELLY,	ROBERT W. DYER,
JOHN OWENS,	GEORGE COLTA,
HUGH MCCLOSKEY,	PATRICK J. BARNEY,
ARTHUR MCCLOSKEY,	DAVID A. THOMSON,
JOHN MURPHY,	WALTER THAYER.

Committee of Working Men.

WILLIAM O'CONNOR. *Secretary.*

DANIEL MANNING,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

To secure and maintain the love, affection, and loyalty of the people, Government should be as ready and willing to advance and protect their interests as it is to exact from them the performance of the duties incumbent on them as citizens. The requirement of the one for the performance of a public duty should be met by a corresponding disposition on the part of the other. Taxes gathered from the people should be expended amongst the people. Those who bear the burdens of Government are entitled to the protection of Government. Believing as we do in this great principle, it is therefore

12 EMPLOYMENT OF CONVICT LABOR ON PUBLIC BUILDING.

Resolved, That the action of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States in countenancing and approving a contract for the erection of a public building in Peoria, Ill., where convict labor is to be employed, has ignored and disregarded this just principle to the detriment of the interests of the honest laboring classes of this country.

Resolved, That the action of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, as above recited, deserves the unqualified disapproval of the labor class of this country.

Resolved, That the laboring class of Peoria, Ill., who are affected by the award of the contract alluded to in the foregoing resolutions, have our sincere sympathy for the wrong that has been thus inflicted on them.

Resolved, That the employment of convict labor on public works, paid for by taxes from the people, except in rare cases, when circumstances render it necessary and unavoidable, deserves the condemnation, not only of the laboring class, but of all good citizens of this free country.

Respectfully submitted.

No. 20.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT,
July 8, 1885.

SIR: In reply to your telegram of the 7th instant, I have to advise you that the contract for stone and brick work of post-office, &c., building at Peoria, Ill., has been awarded to Messrs. Brainerd & Co, Chicago, Ill.

Very respectfully,

M. E. BELL,
Supervising Architect.

Mr. PETER G. STRAUB,
Buffalo, N. Y.

No. 21.

Proposals for stone work and setting at Peoria, Ill.

OFFICE OF SUPERVISING ARCHITECT, TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., June 2, 1885.

Sealed proposals will be received at this office until 2 p. m. on the 30th day of June, 1885, for furnishing and setting all the stone work required for the additional story to the post-office, court-house, &c., building at Peoria, Ill., in accordance with drawing and specification, copies of which may be seen and any additional information may be obtained on application at this office or the office of the local superintendent of the building.

Bids must be accompanied by a certified check for \$500 drawn to the order of "The Secretary of the Treasury," as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract if his bid is accepted, and furnish a bond equal to the amount of the contract.

Bids received *after* the time of opening will not be considered.

M. E. BELL,
Supervising Architect.

CONDITIONS OF SUBMITTING BIDS.

Proposals must be made in a lump sum for supplying and setting all the stone work required to complete the superstructure of the post-office, court-house, &c., building at Peoria, Ill., in accordance with the drawings and the specification.

Samples and time for completion.—Each bidder must submit with his proposal properly marked samples of the stone and sand he proposes to use in performing the work; the sample stones to be 12 by 6 inches and 4 inches thick, one face showing natural fracture and the other the different kinds of cutting called for, also to state in his bid the time in which he proposes to complete the work; the quality of the stone and the time required will be considered in awarding the contract.

Samples of cutting.—Samples of cutting, &c., to be executed on the stone work, may be seen at this office or the office of the local superintendent of the building.

Payments.—Payments will be made monthly, deducting 10 per cent. of the value of the work executed until completion of contract.

Certified check.—All bids should be made on the blank form hereto attached, designed for the purpose, and to be obtained on application at this office or the office of the superintendent, and must be accompanied by a certified check for the sum of \$500, drawn to the order of "The Secretary of the Treasury," as security that the bidder will accept and perform the contract, if awarded him; and in case the United States shall so desire, will execute within two weeks from date of receipt of form a contract for said work, and give such bond for the faithful performance thereof, not less than the contract price, as shall be satisfactory to the United States, the sufficiency of the sureties on such contract to be certified by the judge or clerk of the United States district court or the United States district attorney for the district in which the bidder resides.

Return of checks.—The checks of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned on the award of contract; that of the successful bidder upon receipt of the formal contract, properly executed, in accordance with the requirements of the specification; or upon the satisfactory completion of the work, in case a formal contract is not required, in default of which both check and contract will be forfeited, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Members of firm.—The individual names of a firm submitting a bid must be written out in full in the proposal.

Rights reserved.—The right to reject any and all bids, or to waive defects, if it be desired in the interest of the Government to do so, is reserved.

References.—The bids should conform in every respect to these requirements, and will be considered only when received from parties practically engaged in this class of work, and who can refer to work of this character performed by them.

Subletting.—The contractor will not be permitted to sublet any portion of this work without the consent of this office, and whenever such subletting is permitted the party performing the work will be considered the agent of the contractor, and the contractor will be held responsible for all indebtedness incurred by said agent on account of the work; the Department reserves the right to retain a sufficient sum to meet any liabilities incurred by the contractor on account of the work until satisfied that settlement has been made.

Indorsement.—Proposals must be inclosed in sealed envelopes, indorsed "Proposal for stone work and setting required to complete the post-office, court-house, &c., building at Peoria, Ill.," and addressed to

M. E. BELL,
Supervising Architect.

SPECIFICATION.

Generally.—The contractor to furnish all the labor and materials, stone, cement, lime, sand, and water required to complete the stone masonry of building, including the setting of stone work of dormers, ventilating shafts, and chimneys, also taking down and resetting the parapet coping (course 41) all around the building, making the sinkings for and building into stone all the iron cramps and anchors that may be supplied, all in accordance with working drawings Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 22, 47, 56, 77, 78, 79, full size details and models (which will be furnished the successful bidder), and this specification.

Not included.—All the brick masonry of walls, &c., will be built by the contractor for brick work, and will not be included in this contract.

Explanation of drawings.—The portions of walls hatched in solid lines on plans and sections indicate stone; the portions hatched in alternate lines and broken lines indicate brick.

Stone.—All the stone to be Ohio buff sandstone, similar in color, texture, and in every other respect to the stone used in the portions of the building already completed. The quarry from which the sandstone is proposed to be obtained must be fully opened and capable of furnishing the quantity and dimensions required by the drawings and within the time proposed by the bidder.

Condition of original work.—The stone work of the building is set complete to top of parapet coping (course 41) shown on original drawings Nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10; the contractor must remove this parapet coping, and after building the additional story reset it, making it the parapet coping for the building as extended.

The stone work for the dormers, finials of turrets, the chimneys, and the ventilating shaft is cut and delivered on the site of the building, and the contractor for stone work must set this stone in place complete.

Coursed and molded work.—All the dressed-stone work indicated on the elevations to be of the dimensions shown and figured on the details, all moldings to be of profile shown, sharp and clean, and in strict accordance with full size details, and all exposed faces to be fine rubbed work, as per sample. The quoins of window openings to be 9 inches and 13 inches depth in wall for each alternate course.

Carved work.—The capitals of half columns, terminals of hood molds, and cap bands of turrets to be carved in strict accordance with models, all carving to be bold and spirited.

Random ashler.—The stone facing for body of walls of additional story to be rock-face "random ashler," not in regular courses, but having horizontal beds and perpendicular joints, as in completed portion, to have 8 and 12 inch beds, and built with proper housings for bond with brick backing, the beds and joints to be square with face of wall, the projection of the rock-facing to be uniform, pitched from, and not exceed 1 inch from line of joint. No stone to be of less size than 36 square inches on face, and no tool or drill marks to show on face of stone.

Beds and joints.—The beds and joints of all stone work to be fair, true, out of wind, to have an equal bearing throughout, and so worked that when set the joints will not exceed five-sixteenths inch thick.

Where heating flues are formed in the brick backing of exterior walls the backs of the stone adjoining thereto to be cut out fair, to allow a brick lining, as shown on plans.

Backs of sills, jambs, &c.—The backs of the sills, jambs, &c., of window openings to be good bed work, square and true with the face, the backs of all the cut stone to be pitched off to the depths shown, and wherever necessary to form a proper band with the brick backing.

Quarry beds.—All stone must be cut to lie on its quarry or natural bed, excepting jambs and mullions, which may be set on end or edge, as the case may be.

Centers.—The contractor to furnish the material, build, and set all the centers required for stone arches, which must not be struck or eased until the mortar is thoroughly set.

Lime mortar.—The mortar for all the stone-work to be best quality, one-third by measure of best quality wood burned stone lime, and two-thirds by measure of clean, sharp sand, the lime to be slaked and left to sour as soon as bid is accepted.

Setting.—All stone-work to be thoroughly bedded, jointed, and plastered on the back with lime mortar, and set in accordance with the drawings, the joints to be five-sixteenth inch wide (not over), and set open.

Anchors and cramps.—All stone-work of building to be properly cramped, each to each, and to brick backing wherever necessary and as directed by the superintendent. The Government will supply all the galvanized iron cramps and anchors; the contractor to make the sinkings for, thoroughly imbed in mortar, and properly build in all the cramps and anchors that will be supplied.

Patching and defective work.—No patching or hiding of defects will be allowed, and all defective stone or work will be rejected.

Lewis holes.—No lewis holes to show on face of work, or be exposed to the weather.

Building.—The horizontal courses of stone-work to be kept perfectly level throughout, and the walls built uniformly; that is, one part of the walls must not be carried up more than four feet six inches before the remainder is brought to the same level, unless otherwise ordered by the superintendent. The stone must be set in proper consecutive order, and no detention or delay will be allowed by brick-work backing, &c.

Protection during construction.—The contractor will be required to protect with boards, &c., from injury during construction all projections and angles of stone-work,

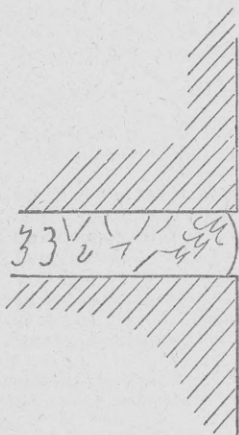
steps, sills, jambs, &c., and also to cover the tops of walls with boards to protect them from rain, &c., and if considered necessary by the superintendent to cover them whenever leaving off work; the contractor to furnish all the lumber, nails, and labor necessary for such protection, and maintain them until completion of work.

Washing and pointing.—At completion the contractor will be required to wash down all exterior exposed stone-work set by him, rake out the joints, and point same with lime, putty, and sand, as near the color of the stone as possible, the pointing to be finished as per sketch. Also make good any pointing of completed work which may have been injured in the execution of his contract.

Scaffolding and damage.—The contractor to furnish all machinery, derricks, tackle, tools, scaffolding, &c., necessary for the proper execution of this work, and will be held responsible for and be required to make good at his own expense any and all damage to completed or other work which may be done in the execution of his contract, or caused by the negligence of his workmen.

Quality of work.—All the stone and labor must be first class in every respect, and executed to the entire satisfaction of the superintendent and the Supervising Architect.

Decision of Supervising Architect to be final.—The decision of the Supervising Architect upon plans, specification, sizes, material, or workmanship to be final and binding on the contractor.



Alterations or additions.—The Supervising Architect reserves the right of making any alterations or additions to the drawings he may think proper without in any way what-ever affecting the validity of the contract, the value of such alterations to be added to or deducted from the amount to be paid under the contract at market rates. The contractor, however, will not be allowed any additional compensation for labor or material unless he receives written authority from the office and the price be agreed upon before the execution of the work.

M. E. BELL,
Supervising Architect.

